REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	31 March 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Friends and Strangers
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Ophelia Editions
Author:	L.A. Stanaman
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The book entitled *Friends and Strangers* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The book tends to support the exploitation of children and young persons for sexual purposes. The publication is a collection of photographs of young girls, including some nude representations. There is a foreword written by the photographer which describes the relationships formed by the photographer and the subjects. These relationships are an exclusive and private bond where the girls are the focus of affection, love and sexual desire. The view expressed in the foreword combined with the photographs is sufficiently pervasive to create a reading which sexualises the subjects and thereby tends to support the exploitation of children and young persons for sexual purposes.

The publication has been found to tend to support an activity listed in s3(2) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. This provision overrides the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the NZBR Act) because it is a deeming provision which cannot be given a meaning that is consistent with the rights and freedoms set out in s14 of the NZBR Act.

OFLC Ref: 9700540